



## F A L S E   M E M O R Y   S Y N D R O M E   F O U N D A T I O N   N E W S L E T T E R

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Dear Friends,

Are we experiencing a mini-resurgence of the beliefs that fueled the recovered memory phenomenon? A reader sent us the following:

"Last night (April 7, 2006) I turned on CNN looking for news and there was a youngish woman telling the story of how she had been depressed all her life and didn't know why—she had no memory of ever being abused—then, when her oldest daughter reached a certain age, terrible memories of the abuse she had suffered at the same age came flooding back. It turned out to be The Larry King Show. . . Someone needs to set the record straight." (See box, page 9.)

The reports "Can of Worms" and "Victoria Inquiry" (p. 3) are discouraging. Former American Psychiatric Association President, Paul Fink, M.D. was recently quoted as saying, "I wasn't going to let these bastards win," [1] and the reporter stated he was referring to the FMS Foundation. Eighteen-year-old Ryan Ferguson was convicted of murder based on a memory recovered from a dream[2].

But this is not the early 90s. A Kentucky man who had been convicted only on recovered-memory evidence has been released. (p. 6) Great articles and books continue to appear. Families continue to reconcile. (p. 10) Scientifically accurate information about memory abounds. If the science collects dust on shelves, however, the roots of recovered memories will again spread. The drama of recovered memories is easier and more fun than the reality of science.

The remake of *Sybil* is an interesting challenge. Will the movie and media coverage be grounded in fact or will they perpetuate the myths that are at the root of the recovered memory problem? In response to our request for help with educating media about the facts behind *Sybil*, some readers took the initiative to contact local reviewers and interest them in the situation. They asked us to follow up by sending information. Other readers wanted us to send information to the colleges and universities in their area. Obviously, we will use available media lists, but personal local contact is the most effective way to increase interest and awareness.

This year is the 30th anniversary of the movie *Sybil*, and

a special DVD edition of the original is also scheduled for release. Of interest is the description of the DVD:

"The DVD will have Nancy L. Preston, author of the book *Life After Sybil*—long time personal friend of Mason's. Based on a true story, Dr. Cornelia Wilbur (Joanne Woodward), an experienced psychiatrist, is faced with one of her most stressful cases: Sybil Dorsett (Sally Field) a 20-year-old school teacher, who suffered such a harrowing upbringing, she consequently developed over 16 different personalities." (Listed on Amazon.com)

How true is the story? Perhaps there is enough "wiggle room" to justify "based on." Were Sybil's multiple personalities the result of a "harrowing upbringing?" There is no evidence for that claim.

In April, a powerful new tool in the effort to educate people about false memories and the facts behind Sybil's personalities became available. *The Bifurcation of the Self* by Robert Rieber includes information never previously available: 75 pages of transcripts of tapes of conversations between the author of *Sybil*, Flora Rheta Schreiber, and Sybil's psychiatrist, Cornelia Wilbur.

Rieber features the story of *Sybil*. (The book is broader and will be reviewed in a future issue.) An entire section of the book is titled: "Sybil: A case of multiple personalities and the natural history of a myth." Rieber reminds readers that *Sybil* likely had a powerful effect: before 1973, the year in which the book was published, there were fewer than 50 known cases of multiple personality disorder in the history of the world. By 1994 over 40,000 cases had been diagnosed. (The author offers some explanations for the story's appeal; for example, it appeared in a time of great social change, especially in the role of women, and multi-

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plicity was appealing to the broader female culture.)

"From all that I have discovered, I concluded that the three women—Wilbur, Schreiber, and Sybil—are responsible for shaping the modern myth of multiple personality disorder. A psychological oddity, so bizarre and rare that it did not merit much publicity in most textbooks before 1973, multiple personality disorder had acquired a sudden respectability and acceptance." (p. 109)

"Sybil... just didn't make multiple personality disorder a fashionable illness in North America and abroad. With its emphasis on childhood sexual abuse it also spawned two other related obsessive phenomena: one was the belief that people were being poisoned by buried memories and the other was that only by reawakening those memories through hypnosis was recovery possible." (p. 111)

Sybil's true identity had actually been revealed on August 27, 1975 by the *Minneapolis Star* but "disappeared from collective memory" until rediscovered in 1998. Sybil (Shirley Mason), an only child, was born and lived in Dodge Center, Minnesota, about 80 miles southeast of Minneapolis. Her parents, Walter and Martha Mason, were in their 40s when she was born, and they were strictly observant Seventh-Day Adventists. Walter was a hardware-store clerk and carpenter, and her mother had had several miscarriages before Sybil was born.

The family seemed a bit unusual: Shirley's mother walked her to school each day, even through high school, but no one in town knew of any instances of the sexual and physical abuse ascribed to the mother in the book. Shirley was described by people in the town as a withdrawn, slender girl with a talent for painting. Evidence indicates that she had a normal IQ although the Sybil-myth places it in a very high range. In 1945 she had a breakdown and experienced severe anorexia. Wilbur treated Shirley for 11 years, but their relationship was far closer and continued after treatment.

Schreiber visited Dodge Center, perhaps in an effort to authenticate some of Sybil's stories. In a letter to Wilbur she wrote that she could not locate the woods where so many terrible things were supposed to have taken place, and she never found anyone to corroborate the stories of the horrible maltreatment. (Schreiber explained this by saying that the neighbors really knew, they just would not tell her.)

Rieber provides an analysis of the tapes, dividing them into 10 sections.

"1. Labeling Sybil as a multiple personality."

"2. Assigning the multiple personalities their personal characteristics and planting [a personality] rather than probing her."

"3. Inventing the primal scene, the grand illusion of an explanatory principle, and making the punishment fit the crime."

"4. Projecting the creators' guilt about perpetrating a fraud onto others; there is a madness in their method and method in their madness."

"5. Manufacturing Sybil's memories."

"6. Shaping the rationale for Sybil as an honest liar."

"7. Sybil becomes confused about her personalities."

"8. Creating the cause—"The Abuse Excuse."

"9. Admitting to a false confession; Sybil's amnesia wears off."

"10. Teaching Sybil to hate and then explaining it."

Following are some excerpts relating to the manufacturing of memories:

*Sybil's reaction to being told she was MPD:*

*Wilbur:* She was relieved because this put a name on it. And this also assured her that she was not the only one that this had ever happened to. And that she had a bona fide condition....

*Schreiber:* And she had read Martin [Morton] Prince's book about the faintest trace of recognition.

*Wilbur:* Yeah (p.217)

.....

Wilbur used sodium pentothal and hypnosis to get "memories"

Uh, the first time we got any memories back was, when, I gave her pentothal and then because what happened was this. Now I had given her the pentothal and oh I hadn't thought about that in years. I've forgotten all about that. And so she talked about it, and I also said, what you also talked about so and so and so and so, \_\_\_\_\_. So I decided that I lost too much ... trying to tell her what she said and then I played the tapes back (p. 241)

Wilbur teaches Sybil to hate her family. Rieber says it is "what happens when a therapist becomes too emotionally involved." Wilbur and Schreiber became surrogate parents.

"You know mother did lots of things to make you angry and frightened, and I know most of them... I know she gave you medicines that hurt you, and I know she filled your bladder up with cold water and hurt you, and she used the flashlight and so on and hurt you. I know she stuffed the washcloth in your mouth and cotton in your nose so you couldn't breathe, I know about all those things. What else did she do that made you angry? Sweetie, hmm? Dear heart? What else did she do? It's all right to talk about it now." (p. 126)

Was Sybil a fraud? Rieber writes that it "depends upon your personal definition of that term. No matter what you wish to call it, it was a conscious misrepresentation of the facts. A fine line between self-deception and the deception of others is an important issue here. Unquestionably, Schreiber and Wilbur wanted to make Sybil a multiple personality case no matter what."

Will a new generation of vulnerable people be influenced by the remake and rerelease of *Sybil*? You can help determine that.

Pamela

Rieber, R.W. (2006). *The Bifurcation of the Self: The History and Theory of Dissociation and Its Disorders*. New York: Springer.

1. Biele, K. (2006, April 20). Politics, Dangerous Notice, A Philly organization takes on Utah's abortion law. Salt Lake City Weekly. Retrieved from [www.slweekly.com/editorial/2006/politics\\_2006-04-20.cmf](http://www.slweekly.com/editorial/2006/politics_2006-04-20.cmf).

2. <http://www.showmenews.com/Heithol/>



## **Can of Worms**

In December 2005, the Scottish Ministry of Health launched *A Can of Worms—Working with Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse* a booklet to "encourage staff to feel more confident when working with adult survivors who disclose abuse." It has caused great consternation to families affected by the problems of recovered memories. The booklet reads like something from 1992, even to recommending *The Courage to Heal*. It lists organizations that deal with survivors of "ritual abuse," and it has a list of 13 "subtle signs" of abuse such as the way people hold their bodies or if they have difficulty sleeping. In response to criticism that the booklet lacked scientific credibility, the authors admitted that it was not an academic paper, and that it was not based on any formal research.

*A Can of Worms* is more than enough to worry about, but in the barrage of letters that appeared both criticizing and defending it, another concern arose. Dr. Tom Brown, a representative of the Royal College, said that the College currently has a "working party to revise the Royal College guidelines on memory, trauma and psychotherapy." He said that "The College's previous guidelines were criticized because some of the members of that working party were advisers to the BFMS [British FMS]." He noted that the current chair of the working group, Dr. Chris Freeman, has "been scrupulous in having no links or association with that organization so that any future college advice can be seen to be unbiased." Not mentioned was that the chair of the present group is a member of the psychotherapy section of the College.

More letters, both published and private, have followed in response to the slur and in an effort to learn more about the working group's composition and direction. Of some concern is the collaboration between the current president of the Royal College and Valerie

Sinnason who is a proponent of satanic ritual abuse. When there is more conclusive information, it will appear in the Newsletter.

Brown, T. (2006, March 9). Letters: Royal College haven't asked for withdrawal of 'Can of Worms.' *The Herald*, 2480.



## **Victoria Government Releases Inquiry into the Practice of Recovered Memory Therapy**

In 2004, FMS families in Victoria, Australia felt that they had achieved a victory when the Minister for Health agreed to have an inquiry into the therapy practices that had harmed so many families. Last month, the report was released. Sadly, it is a disappointment.

The report indicates that recovered memory therapy is no longer a problem, and it fudges important research findings. It does, however, have good recommendations for professional bodies about training and professional practice.

The report is long, and entire sections are duplicated. There are significant omissions in both the literature review and the legal cases cited. Little more needs to be said beyond the fact that *Remembering Trauma* by Richard McNally was not cited, even though this book was specifically suggested by a group of scientists who responded to an earlier report draft. Nor was there any mention of the Sydney mother, father and grandmother who were recently awarded \$165,000 in damages for wrongful arrest after one of their daughters accused them of abuse.

The report can be accessed at <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/pracreg/memory.htm>

Arndt, B. (2006, March 17). Peeling away a therapy onion. *Herald-Sun*.



## **Seeking the Truth in Books: Is it the task of the publisher or the reader?**

Loren Pankratz, Ph.D.

Bantam Books, a division of Random House, recently published

*Sickened: The memoir of a Munchausen by proxy childhood.*<sup>[11]</sup> Some child-abuse experts praised the book, but Brian Morgan, an investigative reporter in Cardiff, Wales, produced documentation that substantial claims were false. When he provided his evidence to Random House, they refused to acknowledge the problems.

Munchausen by proxy is a disorder in which a mother creates an illness, or describes symptoms of an illness, in her child. She does this to receive attention, by proxy, from the medical profession or to engage in the drama of illness. Because of my experience in deceptive disorders, I was asked to interview some of these accused mothers. After the first eleven assessments, it struck me that most were false accusations. The mothers were usually well meaning but inappropriately concerned about the health of their children, or their behavior was problematic in other ways. Their difficulties should have been solved by the pediatricians, but instead the exotic label of Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy entangled them in a destructive web with no apparent escape.

The problems with Munchausen by proxy became front-page news in the United Kingdom after some mothers were released from prison once the accusations against them were shown to be false. The government experts had failed to consider alternative explanations for the children's disorders, misrepresented statistical probabilities, and presumed evil intentions of the mothers without adequate assessment. The syndrome had taken on a life that did not need facts to sustain it. Mothers were being separated from their children because the *warning signs* of the syndrome were confused with the *diagnostic signs*.

The situation is no better in the United States. I have now assessed over 40 accused mothers, and from this experience I published an article suggesting that the label was more

destructive than helpful.<sup>[2]</sup> Exactly how prevalent is this disorder? Most experts have suggested that it is widely missed, but I believe that it is widely over-diagnosed. Innocent mothers have been forced into contentious struggles with legal professionals and child protective services, trying to prove their innocence.

In an attempt to stop the mythology, Brian Morgan decided to investigate whether author Julie Gregory was abused by her mother and inappropriately taken to doctors. The results will not surprise readers of this newsletter. Her mother provided every document requested and responsibly answered all questions. Her life has been seriously disrupted by her daughter's degrading accusations, and she was amazed that someone was finally checking the facts.

Ms. Gregory, on the other hand, responded to questions about the facts in her book with sarcasm and rage. Her personal lawyer threatened Mr. Morgan and refuses to answer his e-mail questions. However, the claim that she earned a master's degree in psychiatry has been removed from her website.

Mr. Morgan is currently addressing his findings with some of the professionals who endorsed her book. At this point, Random House claims that there is no evidence to cause doubt about the veracity of the book. Let's hope that behind the scene they are negotiating a resolution to their blunder. Acknowledging the facts might in turn control the unfortunate popularity of this disorder. As we know, books have consequences. In the meantime, *caveat lector*.

1. Gregory, Julie. (2003). *Sickened*. NY: Bantam Books.

2. Pankratz L. (2006). Persistent problems with the Munchausen syndrome by proxy label. *Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law*, 34, 90-95. [text available at: <http://www.jaapl.org/cgi/content/full/34/1/90>



## Inner Healing in the Church

Eunice Campbell

Review of *Abusing Memory: The Healing Theology of Agnes Sanford*  
Jane Gumprecht, M.D., Canon Press:  
Moscow, Idaho (1997)

Many FMSF families have mentioned that their problems began when their children went to church counselors who excavated memories. I read *Abusing Memory* because I hoped it would help me understand how this kind of counselling took hold in the churches.

According to this book, the roots of Inner Healing as practiced by many Christian counselors such as John and Paula Sandford (Elijah House) and Ed Smith (Theophostic Ministry) or as Prayer Healing (Cornerstone Christian Counselling Centre in Ontario, Canada) can be found in the work of Agnes White Sanford who was born in 1897 and died in 1983. *Abusing Memory* documents the manner in which Mrs. Sanford developed "inner healing" out of Jungian psychology, the occult, and Emmet Fox's New Thought and then brought her ideas into the Christian church. The author argues that the foundations of Agnes White Sanford's theories fail, when measured by biblical doctrine.

Agnes White was born into a distinguished Virginia family. Her father was a Presbyterian missionary who was sent to China where she spent her early years. She was known for her independent spirit and early on became disenchanted with Bible-based Christianity. She married Ted Sanford, an Episcopalian priest, and after the birth of her third child became very depressed. When a young minister named Hollis Colwell tried to help her during a bout of depression, he laid his hands on her head and prayed a "prayer of faith." Agnes related that she felt miraculously healed. According to Gumprecht, Agnes's search to understand why she felt better led to the development of her Inner

Healing theory.

*Abusing Memory* describes Agnes White Sanford as very unhappy in her marriage and in her role as wife and mother. She regarded herself as gifted in the arts and felt that she became a new person when encouraged by Colwell to develop her artistic talents. At the same time she was increasingly disillusioned by the inability of established religion to solve either her problems or the larger problems of suffering in the world. Agnes came to believe that she had been sent to earth by God with a special mission. She wrote "We come into life, I am quite sure, with sealed orders. Even at this time the Lord was preparing me to be an explorer and a way-shower along the paths of healing and of miracles."<sup>[1]</sup>

Agnes explored other religions, mysticism, the New Thought movement and even the occult. She was also greatly influenced by Carl Jung. Quoting extensively from Sanford's writing, Gumprecht argues that Sanford was a pantheist with very mystical beliefs that were not compatible with biblical doctrine. She claims that Sanford conceptualized God as energy and referenced herself as a channel of this energy into another person. The author says that Sanford encouraged relaxation and that her techniques have "an uncanny resemblance to Therapeutic Touch."

Agnes embarked on her own ministry as a faith healer and founded the School of Pastoral Care in 1958 that continues its activities today. Although her Episcopal minister husband was unhappy with the direction of his wife's beliefs, as the years passed she modified her emphasis to healing the soul rather than the body. Her beliefs became more acceptable, and he joined her in the school. The culmination of Agnes's belief system was the Healing of Memories.

"Something is troubling the deep mind...some old unpleasant memo-

ry...What are these 'roots of bitterness' and how can they be drawn out of us? ...Jesus is our time-traveler...entering the subconscious and finding His way through past years to every buried memory in order to touch it with His healing power and set us free. I ask Jesus to enter into him, and go back through time and heal the memories of fear and resentment – even those he had forgotten...Imagine Him walking back with you through time and finding the small person who was agonized and torn apart." (*Healing Gifts*, pp. 108, 116, 119)

In Sanford's 1966 book *Healing Gifts of the Spirit*<sup>[2]</sup> she outlines the seven steps of her method. I will take time to deal with only one of them. She states: *Know the patient's childhood*. If a patient said they had a very happy childhood, she asked three basic questions. When did you start being unhappy? Why were you so unhappy? What happened that made you feel that nobody loved you?" Dr. Gumprecht was appalled at her leading questions that planted doubts in the minds of those who had a happy childhood.

"He [Jesus] can enter below the level of consciousness. He can project His life back through time in me and heal my oldest and most hidden memories, so that as His power works in the submerged mind, my outer reactions and my conscious thoughts more and more conform to the image of His joy and light". (*Healing Touch*, pp. 83-84.)

The "small person who was agonized and torn apart" is that 'inner child' that lives within us, she believed. The memories of unjust hurt experienced by the 'inner child' needed to be brought to light. Once those memories are liberated from the unconscious, she used visualization to imagine Jesus walking towards that small child and introducing the patient to the child. The patient is to ask this inner child for forgiveness for rejecting and hurting it. Jesus puts his arms around the child and loves and com-

forts it. A variation of that scene takes place in Theophostics and prayer counselling. The 'inner child' was not just symbolic. She believed, as Jung did, that the child had a psychic life before it had consciousness. She asked her readers to pray:

"And if even before birth the soul was shadowed by this human life and darkened by the fears and sorrows of the human parents, then I pray that even those memories or impressions may be healed, so that this one may be restored to Your original pattern, the soul as free and clean as though nothing had ever dimmed its shining." (*Healing Gifts*, 122.)

Dr. Gumprecht comments that "to go within oneself to the inner child, is akin to self-worship because the person is looking inward to himself rather than outward to God for comfort, healing and forgiveness." (p. 118) She points out the research done by Doctors Roger Pittman of Harvard and Paul McHugh of John Hopkins University Hospital showing that important traumas are remembered all too well. She mentions Dr. Elizabeth Loftus' research demonstrating that individuals are easily induced to remember events that never happened to them. Memory is malleable. She writes: "Those who claim to be Christians and use Healing of Memories in their counselling stand on a shaky foundation which is not of God." (p. 131)

Agnes's ideas spread through the pastors who attended her schools and through her many books. At the same time, similar ideas were spreading in the secular community. John Sandford, no relation to Agnes, is her most influential disciple. He and his wife, Paula, acknowledge her contribution to their ministry, Elijah House. They emphasize healing of memories, even those as far back as in the womb. They use suggestion in their questions about early childhood and minister to the "child yet living in the heart." They in

turn have influenced others and great damage has been done in many Christian churches. I am encouraged that there are websites that expose this dangerous practice.<sup>[3]</sup> Sometimes poison can come in very deceptive packages.

1. Sanford, A. (1972). *Sealed Orders*. Plainfield, NJ: Logos International.
2. — (1966). *Healing Gifts of the Spirit*. Philadelphia: Lippincott.
3. See, for example, <http://www.deceptioninthechurch.com/divinationfindsfurtherexpression.html> and <http://www.psychoheresy-aware.org/inner82.html>

<http://www.lyingspirits.com/news2006.html#sandford>

Books by Agnes Sanford

- (1959). *Behold Your God*. St. Paul, MN: Macalester Park Publishing Co.
- (1966). *Healing Gifts of the Spirit*. Philadelphia: Lippincott International.
- (1971). *Lost Shepherd*. Plainfield, NJ: Logos.
- (1972). *Sealed Orders*. Plainfield, NJ: Logos International.
- (1976). *Healing Power of the Bible*. New York: Pillar Books.
- (1983). *The Healing Touch of God*. New York: Ballantine Books.
- (1983). *The Healing Light*. New York: Ballantine Books.



## Clarification

In the March/April newsletter, the following quote appeared:

"As to the question whether or not the Sybil case was an out and out fraud, that of course depends upon your personal definition of the term. No matter what you wish to call it, it was a conscious misrepresentation of the facts...there is a fine line between deception of self and deception of others...In the final analysis Sybil is a phony multiple personality case at best."

Rieber, RW (1999). Hypnosis, false memory and multiple personality: A trinity of affinity. *History of Psychiatry*, X, 3-11.

Dr. Rieber asked to add:

"The quote... is a position that I still maintain. However, some people may assume that I deny the existence of DID. This of course is made clear in my article that I do not deny the existence of DID, but I do believe that it is an extremely rare disorder, and Sybil's

story was a phony representation of that case. For the record, I would like readers to be aware of that."

Rieber's article is available at [www.FMSF.org](http://www.FMSF.org).



"The medical field has simply not established the validity of repressed memory... If the psychological community continues to be divided as to the veracity of recovered memories, used as proof of past sexual abuse, then the legal system should prohibit the introduction of such memories as evidence against non-perpetrators of sexual abuse [that is, those not already convicted of sexual abuse]. It is apparent that relying on unsubstantiated theories of recovered repressed memories can result in devastating consequences for victims and alleged defendants. However, it is inherently more unfair to subject non-perpetrators to this type of medical theory.... Perpetrators are far better prepared to defend themselves against allegations by victims than are non-perpetrators."

The term "false memory syndrome" was first used by the False Memory Syndrome Foundation. The Foundation defines the syndrome as a condition where a person has a strong belief in something that, although the belief is objectively false, the person's identity is based on the belief. False memory syndrome is not recognized by the American Psychiatric Association, but it has been widely used as a way to describe the unreliability of so called recovered repressed memories."

Smith, P.E. (2004). The Massachusetts discovery rule and its application to non-perpetrators in "repressed memory" child abuse cases. *30 N.E.J. on Crim. & Civ. Con.* 179.

### Kentucky Judge Overturns Recovered Memory Conviction

Timothy Smith v. Commonwealth of Kentucky

Commonwealth of Kentucky, Kenton Circuit Court,  
Case No. 00-CR-00669

On March 29, 2006, Kenton, Kentucky Circuit Judge Patricia Summe set aside the conviction of Timothy Smith who had served five of his 20-year sentence for abusing his daughter.

Tim Smith's daughter, Katie, accused him of child sexual abuse in 2000 and he was convicted in 2001. In 2004, the Kentucky Supreme Court affirmed Smith's conviction saying that it could do nothing about his case because Smith's attorney had failed to object at trial to the many errors that occurred.

It was not until 2005 when the unfortunate death of 22-year-old Katie brought his case to attention and serious problems with the conviction became apparent. Smith's daughter Katie was murdered when she apparently attempted to cut an unborn baby from the womb of a pregnant woman. (See *FMSF Newsletter*, 14(6) (December 2005). The bizarre circumstances of her death pointed out that Katie had been a seriously disturbed young woman.

The Kentucky Innocence Project and attorney Patrick J. Lamb of Chicago filed an appeal for Smith. The Innocence Project director Marguerite Thomas said: "The lack of evidence used to convict [Tim Smith] is shocking and troubling." There was no physical evidence in the case and little investigation. For example, Katie had claimed that the memories of abuse came to her when she was having sexual relations with her boyfriend. Neither the police nor the prosecution ever talked to the "boyfriend," however. If they had, they

would have learned that he denied having sexual relations with her. He also said that Katie was not his

girlfriend. Katie Smith had a long history of telling lies, and neither that nor her emotional problems were brought out during the trial.

Much of the prosecution's case had been based on the testimony of "Doctor" Kimberly Wolfe who supported Katie Smith's story. She testified that Katie suffered from "repressed memory syndrome." Wolfe, however, is not a doctor of any kind, but is, rather, a registered nurse. She obtained her Ph.D. from an unaccredited school through the Internet. Under Kentucky law, she was not entitled to use that title, and it is likely that its use during the trial by both the prosecution and Wolfe enhanced her credibility. Tim Smith's lawyer did not challenge Wolfe's credentials and was unaware of the U.S. Supreme Court ruling through which he could have done so. After her ruling, Judge Summe noted: "allowing the commonwealth's expert to go virtually unchallenged" was "outside the range of acceptable trial practice."

Kentucky prosecutor William Crockett has 30 days in which to appeal or he may elect to retry the case. Crockett said that even though the facts about Katie Smith's death are troubling, it is possible that it was the sexual abuse that caused her to become delusional. Attorney Lamb said he doubted that the case would be retried. "It would be a defense lawyer's dream to try this case," because of the lack of physical evidence and Katie Smith's death.

Patrick J. Lamb, pro bono counsel, is a partner in the Chicago firm of Butler Rubin. Dunbar, E. (2006, April 1). Sex abuse conviction overturned. *Lexington Herald-Leader*, C1-2.

Wolson, A. (2006, March 31). Man's sodomy conviction thrown out. Accuser later attacked pregnant woman. Retrieved March 31, 2006 from <http://www.courier-journal.com>.



## Toledo Ritual Murder

### Trial Begins<sup>[1]</sup>

State v. Robinson, Case No. 2004 1915,  
Court of Common Pleas,  
Lucas County Ohio

National media, including Court TV, are focusing attention on the trial of Father Gerald Robinson in Toledo, Ohio accused of murdering a 71-year-old nun in 1980. The great attention is probably because the case involves claims of recovered repressed memories, ritual murder, and satanic cults. Heightening the charged atmosphere around this trial is the claim that the heavily Catholic police department colluded with the clergy to cover up the case in 1980. The police say that there was not enough evidence to bring a case in 1980; there were no fingerprints, no footprints, no witnesses and DNA technology was not available then. The investigators who reopened the case say that they have found evidence that some bloodstains on an altar cloth match a letter opener that was found in Father Robinson's home.

The old case was brought back to life in 2003 after a woman came forward claiming that she had recovered memories that as a child she had been sexually and physically abused for years by Catholic priests during satanic rituals. One of the priests she named was 68-year-old Father Gerald Robinson. The woman said that she had been placed in a coffin filled with cockroaches, had been penetrated with a snake, had participated in killing an infant, and had committed other horrible acts. No evidence was presented. Perhaps, in part, as a result of pressure from groups representing people abused by clergy, the police decided to reopen the 24-year-old murder case in which Father Robinson had been questioned.

Judge Thomas Osowik is presiding. Jury selection began on April 17 and the trial is expected to last three to four weeks. Because there are no wit-

nesses to the crime, the trial is expected to focus on forensic evidence. Among the witnesses will be a forensic expert who has written a book on bloodstains, and forensic anthropologist Kathleen Reichs who is an author and the inspiration behind the television program "Bones."

Johnson Thebes, Father Robinson's attorney, said: "There's a reason these cases are cold and sit for 24 years—because the evidence is not good to begin with. I've had two of these so-called 'cold cases' before, and they both ended in acquittal."

1. See *FMSF Newsletter*, 13(5),

September/October.

Ewinger, J. (2006, April 12). Priest's trial in death of nun will include talk of rituals, cults. *Plain Dealer*, A1.

Yonke, D. & Reiter, M. (2006, April 12). Space worries force judge to shift priest's courtroom. *The Blade* (Toledo, OH), B1.

## Louisiana Repressed Memory Case Against

### Michael Jackson is Dismissed

Bartucci v. Jackson, Case 2:04-cv-02977-EEF-ALC, U.S. Dist. Ct. Eastern Dist. of Louisiana, Filed 04/13/06.

On April 13, 2006, United States District Judge Eldon Fallon dismissed with prejudice the case of Joseph Thomas Bartucci, Jr. against Michael J. Jackson. Bartucci had sued Jackson for child sexual abuse based on the recovery of repressed memories. Jackson's attorney, Charles Gay filed a motion to dismiss arguing that there was no verifiable corroboration of the events, that repressed memory is highly controversial and not generally accepted, that plaintiff's expert lacked credentials to support the theory, and that it was plaintiff's burden of proof to establish repressed memory as a valid scientific principle so as to be admissible under the rules of evidence. The judge dismissed because Jackson was shown to be elsewhere at the time of the alleged abuse.

## Statutes of Limitations in Sex Abuse Cases

One consequence of the clergy sex abuse scandals has been a renewed effort across the nation to extend the statutes of limitations so that those abused long ago may prosecute. Since 2002, six states have extended the legal deadlines for filing abuse cases. In at least nine states, legislators have proposed bills that would suspend statutes of limitations. Most of the proposals have been based on a 2003 California law that provides a one-year window during which suits could be filed. Over 800 cases were filed in California with a potential value of 1 billion dollars. Washington and Arizona also enacted "window" legislation.

Currently, the Catholic Church is vigorously fighting proposals in Colorado, Delaware, Hawaii, Maryland, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin. The arguments used by the Church have varied by state. In some, the claim is that it would be unfair and dangerous to change long-standing legal rules (e.g. Maryland). In others, the argument is that such a law would provide for a systematic dismantling and pillaging of the Catholic community by a peculiar kind of anti-Catholicism (Colorado).

Willing, R. (2006, April 13). Church battling plans to ease abuse lawsuits; bills would suspend statutes of limitation. *USA Today*, 2A.

"It is singular how soon we lose the impression of what ceases to be constantly before us. A year impairs, a luster obliterates. There is little distinct left without an effort of memory, then indeed the lights are rekindled for a moment—but who can be sure that the Imagination is not the torch-bearer?"

Lord Byron

## **Letter to FMS Family Members From A Survivor**

Three years have passed since FMSF helped me escape my ordeal of "therapy." Seeking help on the Internet, I found FMSF and a site created by one who had lost a sibling to FMS. Those sites saved my life. With more time, maybe I could have sued or prosecuted, but I was too damaged to act.

Before therapy, I was happy, employed and proud of family. I'd been sexually assaulted in college, but I went to a therapist only after three years of undiagnosed hypothyroidism that led to quitting work and moving nearer my folks did I enter therapy. After my diagnosis I rallied. But my psychotherapist disregarded my very real medical problem and treated me as if I were mentally ill saying: "Only drugs and psychiatric hospitals are for people like you." For the next five years, I protested, saying, "I feel brainwashed, like I'm being inducted into a cult." He said that was because my parents had abused me, and I could not accept real love.

I believed that I might lessen burdens on my family if I consulted a therapist as I reasserted my adult self, but the usual happened: the therapist encouraged loss of family contact and a breakdown of the morals I'd lived by. I even changed religions. I begged to understand his methods, but was told, "It's about feeling, not thinking." He coerced regression while using unwanted full body contact during all sessions for years. When I protested, he diagnosed me as "schizoid," which meant, "without the usual human core." Tearful, terrorizing sessions were spent accepting my new "identity." I was told I "was highly dissociative and barely missed having DID," but he hadn't wanted to tell me, since "the truth might destabilize" someone as mentally ill as me. Previous successes only showed that I'd compartmentalized my "true" [dissociated

schizoid] self. But I was in my thirties, had attended college and grad school, didn't smoke, didn't drink, had worked until my illness. His published papers, I found, argue that disorganizing the personality is necessary for "healing." He was good at it!

I was made to feel I couldn't have a baby, since my mother hadn't bonded with me. If she had, he said, I would have understood love, seen my assault coming, and would have had a child. When I tried to commit suicide—a first for me and prompted by a session—he said he couldn't help because he was, "inured to suffering."

He still took my \$90.00 checks. Family contact ended. My grandmother died. When my mother became ill, and I should have helped her, I was being "re-borned" as *his* child. He convinced me that my loving memories of my mother were wrong; she really hated me. I finally wept, saying, "You're my family now!" It was a total perversion of my former self. He said he loved me, "even though I was a child of neglect and violence."

On my birthday, in a terrorized fog, I took my "birthday meal" to his office, then paid to watch him eat it. But I remembered family birthdays. I want families to know that *every day* I was desperate to escape. But how could I? I was terrified things would get worse if I tried another "respected professional." He had convinced me that only hospitals, which he made sound unsafe, were for me. Before therapy, I'd been working and happy. When I fled, I was destitute and did not even know how many years I'd gone there! How could I file a formal complaint in such confusion?

It was 2003. I thought a rape crisis center would help, since he'd coerced unwanted physical touching and I had his publications in hand, showing he had done it to others. The people at the crisis center didn't even react. There was a waiting list for private counseling, so I went to 13 "free public infor-

mation sessions." At "Understanding and Managing Dissociation: From Daydreaming to DID," I completed forms devised with the assumption that I had DID: Had I lost time? Found clothing I didn't remember buying?

We—about twenty of us—were told not to be ashamed. Dissociation was "natural" after rape. So was desire for lesbian and sado-masochistic sex: the victim "internalizes her aggressor," then her own sexual need becomes violent. Self-injury was normal, and you could buy a "self-injury workbook." For an hour, one of the counselors described her own "Satanic ritual abuse," then "shifted alters." We met our personalities, and she told us how her family reacted to her condition with loving tolerance.

The center "community" had art shows, drumming sessions, and crafts classes, and it was tempting to be involved, since I was scared and alone. We could paint "grounding rocks." (Treatment involves holding rocks when trauma symptoms trigger MPD /DID.) "Wellness programs" included yoga, creative journaling and meditation. In "The Body Connection," we were shown slides of ads, since they created "idealized images of women that make us feel bad about ourselves." This prompted counselor-led dialogue about our body inferiority. Meanwhile, on the center website, were pictures of their own fashion show, complete with 250 attendees and thin, barely-clad models. The show was a benefit "honoring survivors of sexual assault."

One handout said we "deserved choice and informed consent," but *The Courage to Heal* was used and quoted in the "mission statement," and no one informed us of any controversy. Repeatedly, we were told that rape is forever. It "comes up" over and over, "often at every new phase of life," and needs treatment. Counselors saw themselves as feminists, but what kind of feminists would make raped women do crafts instead of helping them prose-

cute?

A counselor called the place, "Our educational center." It was quite an education! So were private sessions, offered me—months later. An intake counselor said, "Your therapist became your perpetrator." By then, I was clearer but still very scared. I said, "No. He was himself." She told me that she felt I was protecting a perpetrator from my past. This counselor had existentialist philosopher, Sartre's, book *Being and Nothingness* on her desk. She said she was "going to take me back to the existential crisis and do character interventions." Eyeing the toys in her floor, I asked if she used regressive techniques, since I'd been abused that way. She said, "This isn't going to work unless you open up," (meaning regress and play with toys).

She did "body-work," involving physically holding clients, too, and had graduated from the same college program as the therapist I'd just fled. She said, "We have to explore what's back there that made you stay in an abusive situation [with her colleague whose lectures she attended]." By "back there," she was implying childhood sex abuse. She ignored the abuse of my previous therapist. That I was still terrorized and destitute meant nothing, nor that I'd been able to periodically fight the abusive treatment aggressively even though I had been sick, confused, and isolated. When I remarked on this, she said, "Nobody is ever going to be able to help you!" And, "those people [abuse victims] just get re-victimized by law enforcement." On the center's website, that information is in boldface. Meanwhile my first therapist had called, assuring me that my appointment was open. When I threatened to complain, I received a letter saying to contact his lawyer. I was scared to death. He had much more money than I did.

Today, my early memories are like memories of memories. All the memories were re-formed while I was

unclear and suffering from years of underactive thyroid, linked to depression and suicide. I remember as I once did, and I remember the way the therapist re-framed things. My attitudes and values are more rigid. Things more black and white. I used to share easily. No more. I learned "might is right." Power wins.

Frequently, I look at a shopping bag full of family pictures that I took to his office, to prove my family was nice, only to hear him say, "Pictures lie." Survivor stories and web pages of the rape center have been crucial to healing. I track my therapist's career, reading what he publishes. I hate to buy his books and articles, but anytime I doubt, I own proof that my therapist was a monster.

I can only hope someone starts editing the books that taught my therapist his techniques. Outside therapy, it would be criminal. After therapy, other non-responding professionals undermined my faith in helping systems. Overseas wartime interrogations are discussed in national media, but not the sex abuse and reckless endangerment people survive on domestic soil as "health care." My abusers continue practicing.

I hope the Foundation will stay involved. I know many patients want to come home, but they live in the shadows and confusion that I fled. Leaving is hard. Publicizing FMS is essential. Victims are able to simply say, "I got caught in one of those sick therapies," and others just say, "Sorry." One thing I'll never forget is finding your stories and the FMSF newsletter as I escaped. I want to thank you now. It saved my life.



#### FMSF Advisor Elected to the National Academy of Sciences

We are pleased to announce that FMSF Advisory Board member Rochell Gelman, Ph.D. has been elected to the National Academy of Sciences. Gelman is a professor of psychology and cognitive science at Rutgers University. Her work has included causal and quantitative reasoning and the role of informal environments in cognitive development.

The FMSF Scientific and Professional Advisory Board now lists a total of eight members of the NAS and IOM (Institute of Medicine): Aaron T. Beck, Rochel Gelman, Lila Gleitman, Ernest Hilgard, Philip S. Holzman, Elizabeth Loftus, Paul McHugh and Ulric Neisser. All but one of these distinguished scientists were on the founding FMSF Advisory Board of just 15.



#### FMS Beliefs Are Still With Us

"I didn't know that I was sexually abused until like I don't know about 14 years ago. I had been plagued with an eating disorder and had long time problems with depression and anxiety. And it wasn't until my eldest daughter, who is now 15, reached the age when I was abused that I started to have memories

"And first they came back in dreams and then they came back in full body memory so I relived the experience. And, I thought I was crazy at first because I knew that, you know, I had some forms of abuse but I never, ever suspected that I had been sexually abused.

"And subsequent to finding out what was the root cause of my addictions and problems with depression many of the symptoms went away and the need to hurt myself and find other ways to self destruct kind of just disappeared."

"I believe that when you heal a wound like child abuse it gives you the equal capacity to sense it in others and almost, it is like a sixth sense."

Catherine Oxenberg, CNN Larry King Live, April 7, 2006. Transcript: 040701CN.V22, "Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse Speak Out"

**Thoughts**

Although I am still very sad about the death of my husband, I continue to have a good relationship with my accusing daughter, even though she still thinks that "something" happened. Unfortunately, there is a rift with her elder sister who feels that the wonderful memories she had of her childhood became tainted by the accusations. I sometimes wonder if this is the end of the story or if she will realize in my lifetime that she made a mistake. My husband probably wondered the same. When she gets to heaven, she'll know the truth and that's what she says too.

My husband and I had lost a 4-year-old child to illness in 1964. When our daughter first made her accusations I remember saying that being falsely accused was more difficult to go through and that there was more than one way to lose a child. In retrospect, they were equally devastating experiences. To me, having my daughter back in our lives is more important than trying to prove that her memories were false ones.

I continue to pray for people who are still separated from loved ones because of false beliefs. Oh, that we could by some Divine intervention make the world know what a terrible plague this was and is!

A mom

**Cruelty to Good Families**

In December, 2005, our forty-year-old daughter called her father and retracted the accusations that a therapist had made in December 1999. This brought to an end seven years of a lost relationship with our beautiful daughter because of wrongful so-called professional therapy.

This daughter is the oldest of our three adopted children and is a pedi-

atric cancer survivor. Her victory over the cancer is a part of medical history. She grew up in a loving family, extended family and community support system. After graduation from high school she became a nurse, an extraordinary one at that. It was in her early working years that depression became obvious and led to her vulnerability. The trauma that she actually experienced was that of her fight through the long months of cancer treatment. In the hands of those not acquainted with that kind of childhood experience, she was led away from her family and the realities of her life.

It was of special interest to find False Memory Syndrome in the college textbooks. We looked in particular at Chapter 9 in David Myers' Psychology text. He talks about a person's identity and relationships centering on "a false but strongly believed memory." The students who read those paragraphs must be informed about the reality of sadness and damage to individuals and their relationships in family.

We hope that the phenomenon continues to be studied and reported. We, parents and siblings, never spent a day without grieving the lost treasure of our daughter. It is difficult to believe that this kind of human cruelty to good families and fragile people can take place.

A mom and dad

**I Almost Gave Up Hope**

I have not seen my oldest daughter or her two sons since 1991. I had not seen my youngest daughter (except in passing) since 1996 when she cut ties with me about a year after her father and I separated. I had never seen her 5-year-old daughter, my granddaughter.

A few days before Thanksgiving 2005, I called my youngest daughter and told her I was baking pumpkin pies and asked if I could send her one. My new husband would deliver it to her at her work place. She agreed. While on

the phone I told her that most of my husband's family would be at our house on Thanksgiving and that she was welcome to come. She didn't say anything. The next day my husband went by her work place to deliver the pie and talked with her for a few minutes. He invited her to come for dinner and again she did not say anything.

Neither one of us thought that there was a chance she would come, but on Thanksgiving evening, the front door bell rang and there she stood with my little granddaughter. What a blessing and a miracle! She said when she left that she had photo albums that she would bring back later and show us. That gave us hope that there would be another get together.

We both want to take it slow and easy. We have been through so much hurt and neither one of us wants to go through it again. I keep praying that the oldest daughter will also come around. Her two sons are almost grown now. We have all missed out on so much.

There were times over the years that I had almost given up hope. I now thank God for giving me the strength to endure all these hurtful years; for supportive family and friends; for the miracle of the reconciliation; and for the FMSF and all it has done to educate the public and to help victims.

A hopeful mom

**In My Life—Better than Not**

My accusing daughter is coming to visit this spring. There is still no recanting, but having her in my life is better than not. I guess admitting that she made a mistake (a BIG one) is more than she can do at this time—maybe forever. She doesn't want to discuss the issue and, for now, that is OK with me. I thank the Foundation for seeing us through this difficult situation and I hope for the best for all of us parents.

A mom



## Thank You

You do and have done such an amazingly super job. There are no words on this planet that would adequately describe the impact of your excellent work.

A grateful but grieving father



## Rebuilding A Relationship

In June of 1987 I was separated from my ten-year-old daughter. In the midst of a divorce, her mom and step-mom, both deeply involved in repressed memory retrieval therapy, intuited that my daughter had been abused by me. She was examined by a doctor and told him she had no memory of abuse. The doctor proceeded to declare "within medical certainty" that she'd been abused (in the face of no medical data to support his declaration), but added that if she didn't remember abuse, his findings were less certain. Thus, the requirement was set in place: my ten-year-old must remember her abuse to confirm the beliefs of her mother, step-mother, and sex abuse medical expert.

She was immediately placed in memory-retrieval therapy with a therapist who also proclaimed that she had been abused, but simply hadn't remembered. My daughter was surrounded by the cult of belief, a kidnap victim of righteous, ignorant do-gooders. What followed was pure tragedy.

Three years later, after a lengthy civil trial, a criminal trial, and appeal to the Supreme Court, I plea-bargained for a class D sexual misconduct misdemeanor. My finances were utterly depleted. My professional life gone. Dr. Underwager and a team of experts across the country testified to my innocence and to the very real container of suggestion and brainwash that my daughter had been trapped in.

Fifteen years later I reunited with my daughter. If not for the work of the False Memory Syndrome Foundation and the courageous men and women

who put forth outstanding scientific work, I would have given up. It has been three years and my daughter and I are slowly but steadily building a relationship. I have had a huge, enormous weight lifted from my shoulders. Thank you. Miracles do happen.

A grateful father.



## A New Generation for *Sybil*

I am sending a letter to my middle-aged returner children to be wary of the *Sybil* movie, as their children could be caught up in the likely ensuing hysteria just as their parents were, since their kids (my grandchildren) are now adults. This new generation will remember the accusations and trauma of mom or dad accusing their grandparents, as well as the loss of their grandparents in their lives. If a new generation has not been fully informed of the hoax of MPD, they could accuse their own parents (the original FMS accusers). Since these adult grandchildren are now in the helping professions, or in college studying the same, with armament of being realistically and fully informed, they can use their knowledge of the truth about MPD hoax to stop any further *Sybil* hysteria from spreading across the land.

A grandparent who loves them.



## Worthy of Support

Have you or others viewed ABC's new weekly television program called "InJustice"? It has been shown on Friday evenings. It is the only television program that I know of that consistently makes a great effort to prove the innocence of false convictions. It deserves support.

A dad



A childhood is what anyone wants to remember of it. It leaves behind no fossils, except perhaps in fiction.

Carol Shields, *The Stone Diaries*

## Thoughts From A Dad

I read the two requests for help in the Jan./Feb. 2006 FMSF Newsletter. In each, grieving parents anguished over the refusals of their grown children to return to the fold and the hurtful things their children continue to do. Within these painful letters seemed a hidden "What did I do wrong?"

If it is any consolation, very likely you did nothing wrong. Don't take the guilt burden that your children are attempting to lay upon you. If they want to close their doors, perhaps you should let them and get on with your lives. You really don't have much control of the situation, and the more you beg and plead, the more you hurt and the more they are in control. Maybe they even enjoy your pain.

I know I may sound harsh, but doing the opposite is even more painful. My sister once gave me sage advice: "Deal from strength." Always. Even if you don't feel it. It's possible that you will gain some respect, even if it is only self-respect.

Turn the tragedy into something positive. Explore. It is a new phase in your life. Even if you are close to each and every one of your children, you can't live your life through them. If you focus all your hopes on this end, you will be miserable.

No one can control another individual, unless, perhaps, that person is a young child. Adults are on their own.

A father



"When I got calmer and I was able to, you know, find a peaceful place inside myself, I was able to, you know, go to my family and make amends and ask their forgiveness and they mine and we've mended that one too. That one I'm so happy about. My mother and I and my siblings we have a great relationship."

Roseanne

CNN Larry King Live, March 2, 2006

## A Different Scenario

For 15 years, the FMSF position has cast repressed-memory therapists in the role of villain, our accusing daughters and sons as "victims," and accused fathers and mothers as innocent bystanders who got hit when the you-know-what hit the fan.

Here is a different scenario. Instead of viewing the accusing daughter as the "victim," let's see her for what she is—a willing co-conspirator who, along with a smug therapist, has intentionally made her father or mother the scapegoat for her personal problems.

That being the case, it's sensible to say to her: "You made your decision so... Good riddance."

A not-so-grieving father



Thank You

A special "Thank you" to all who sent beautiful cards, letters and emails. I can't put into words how much these condolences have helped me get through this terrible time. I know Herman's soul is watching over us.

Linda Harrison Ohme



Remember the McMartin child abuse case of the 1980s? Children prompted and goaded by law enforcement accused daycare workers of bizarre satanic cult activity and sexual abuse. Similar incidents were reported coast-to-coast in what appeared to be a sudden epidemic of baby-killing and molestation by mysterious covens of devil worshippers. But it wasn't true. Cases later were dismissed for lack of evidence and convictions were overturned when it was shown that the shocking details of sexual perversion and cult activity were false memories planted by prosecutors and investigators. Those events made for much smaller headlines, of course.

Liner, E. (2006, April 13). Devil's Playground; With The Crucible new insights into an old attempt at faith-based initiatives. *Dallas Observer.*

## 'Repressed Memory' Challenge

By Harrison G. Pope, Jr. and James I. Hudson

### \$1000 reward to anyone who can produce a published case of "repressed memory" (in fiction or non-fiction) prior to 1800

Our research suggests that the concept of "repressed memory" or "dissociative amnesia" might be simply a romantic notion dating from the 1800s, rather than a scientifically valid phenomenon. To test this hypothesis, we are offering a reward of \$1000 to the first person who can find a description of "repressed memory" in any written work, either nonfiction or fiction (novels, poems, dramas, epics, the Bible, essays, medical treatises, or any other sources), in English or in any work that has been translated into English, prior to 1800. We would argue that if "repressed memory" were a genuine natural phenomenon that has always affected people, then someone, somewhere, in the thousands of years prior to 1800, would have witnessed it and portrayed it in a non-fictional work or in a fictional character.

To qualify as a bona fide case, the individual described in the work must: 1) experience a severe trauma (abuse, sexual assault, a near-death experience, etc.); and 2) develop amnesia for that trauma for months or years afterwards (i.e. be clearly unable to remember the traumatic event as opposed to merely denying or avoiding the thought); where 3) the amnesia cannot be explained by biological factors, such as a) early childhood amnesia -- in which the individual was under age five at the time of the trauma, or b) neurological impairment due to head injury, drug or alcohol intoxication, or biological diseases. Also, the individual must 4) "recover" the lost memory at some later time, even though the individual had previously been unable to access the memory. Finally, note 5) that the individual must selectively forget a traumatic event; amnesia for an entire period of time, or amnesia for non-traumatic events does not qualify.

There are numerous examples of "repressed memory" in fiction and non-fiction after 1800. A literary example that fulfills all of the above criteria is Penn, in Rudyard Kipling's 1896 novel, Captains Courageous, who develops complete amnesia for having lost his entire family in a tragic flood. He later goes to work as a fisherman on a Grand Banks schooner. On one occasion, after a tragic collision between an ocean liner and another schooner at sea, Penn suddenly recovers his lost memory of the flood and the death of his family, and recounts the story to other members of the crew.

At present, we have been unable to find any cases of "repressed memory," meeting the above criteria, in any work prior to 1800. We offer a prize of \$1000 to the first person who can do so. Please contact us with any questions or candidate cases at [harrisonpope@mclean.harvard.edu](mailto:harrisonpope@mclean.harvard.edu)

The first successful respondent, if any, will receive a check for \$1000 from the Biological Psychiatry Laboratory, and the successful case will be posted on this website. In the event of any dispute (i.e., a respondent who disagrees with us as to whether a case meets the above 5 criteria), Scott Lukas, Ph.D., Professor of Psychiatry (Pharmacology) at Harvard Medical School, has agreed to arbitrate. Dr. Lukas has no involvement in the debate surrounding "repressed memory" and has never published in this area; thus he represents an impartial arbitrator. We have agreed to abide by Dr. Lukas' decision in the case of any dispute.

Harrison G. Pope, Jr., M.D., M.P.H., James I. Hudson, M.D., Sc.D., Directors, Biological Psychiatry Laboratory, McLean Hospital, Belmont, MA 02478



## Web Sites of Interest

[comp.ark.edu/~lampinen/read.html](http://comp.ark.edu/~lampinen/read.html)  
The Lampinen Lab False Memory Reading Group,  
University of Arkansas

[www.exploratorium.edu/memory/](http://www.exploratorium.edu/memory/)  
The Exploratorium Memory Exhibit

[www.ctnow.com/memory](http://www.ctnow.com/memory)  
*Hartford Courant* memory series

[www.tmdArchives.org](http://www.tmdArchives.org)  
The Memory Debate Archives

[www.francefms.com](http://www.francefms.com)  
French language website

[www.StopBadTherapy.com](http://www.StopBadTherapy.com)  
Contains phone numbers of professional  
regulatory boards in all 50 states

[www.IllinoisFMS.org](http://www.IllinoisFMS.org)  
Illinois-Wisconsin FMS Society

[www.ltech.net/OHIOarmhp](http://www.ltech.net/OHIOarmhp)  
Ohio Group

[www.afma.asn.au](http://www.afma.asn.au)  
Australian False Memory Association

[www.bfms.org.uk](http://www.bfms.org.uk)  
British False Memory Society

[www.geocities.com/retractor](http://www.geocities.com/retractor)  
This site is run by Laura Pasley (retractor)

[www.sirs.com/uptonbooks/index.htm](http://www.sirs.com/uptonbooks/index.htm)  
Upton Books

[www.angelfire.com/tx/recoveredmemories/](http://www.angelfire.com/tx/recoveredmemories/)  
Locate books about FMS  
Recovered Memory Bookstore

[www.religioustolerance.org/sra.htm](http://www.religioustolerance.org/sra.htm)  
Information about Satanic Ritual Abuse

[www.angryparents.net](http://www.angryparents.net)  
Parents Against Cruel Therapy

[www.geocities.com/newcosanz](http://www.geocities.com/newcosanz)  
New Zealand FMS Group

[www.werkgroepwfh.nl](http://www.werkgroepwfh.nl)  
Netherlands FMS Group

[www.falseallegation.org](http://www.falseallegation.org)  
National Child Abuse  
Defense & Resource Center

[www.nasw.org/users/markp](http://www.nasw.org/users/markp)  
Excerpts from *Victims of Memory*

[www.rickross.com/groups/fsm.html](http://www.rickross.com/groups/fsm.html)  
Ross Institute

[www.hopkinsmedicine.org/jhhpsychiatry/perspec1.htm](http://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/jhhpsychiatry/perspec1.htm)  
Perspectives for Psychiatry  
by Paul McHugh

[www.enigma.se/info/FFI.htm](http://www.enigma.se/info/FFI.htm)  
FMS in Scandanavia - Janet Haggom

[www.ncrj.org/](http://www.ncrj.org/)  
National Center for Reason & Justice

[www.lyingspirits.com](http://www.lyingspirits.com)

Skeptical Information on Theophistic Counseling

[www.ChildrenInTherapy.org/](http://www.ChildrenInTherapy.org/)

Information about Attachment Therapy

[www.traumaversterking.nl](http://www.traumaversterking.nl)

English language web site of Dutch retractor.

[www.quackwatch.org](http://www.quackwatch.org)

This site is run by Stephen Barrett, M.D.

[www.stopbadtherapy.org](http://www.stopbadtherapy.org)

Contains information about filing complaints.

[www.FMSFonline.org](http://www.FMSFonline.org)

Web site of FMS Foundation.

## Legal Web Sites of Interest

\*[www.caseassist.com](http://www.caseassist.com)

\*[www.findlaw.com](http://www.findlaw.com)

\*[www.legalengine.com](http://www.legalengine.com)

\*[www.accused.com](http://www.accused.com)

\*[www.abuse-excuse.com](http://www.abuse-excuse.com)

## Elizabeth Loftus

[www.seweb.uci.edu/faculty/loftus/](http://www.seweb.uci.edu/faculty/loftus/)

## The Rutherford Family Speaks to FMS Families

The video made by the Rutherford family is the most popular video of FMSF families. It covers the complete story from accusation, to retraction and reconciliation. Family members describe the things they did to cope and to help reunite. Of particular interest are Beth Rutherford's comments about what her family did that helped her to retract and return.

### Available in DVD format only:

To order send request to:  
FMSF Video, 1955 Locust St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

\$10.00 per DVD; Canada add \$4.00;

other countries add \$10.00

Make checks payable to FMS  
Foundation

## Recommended Books

### Remembering Trauma

Richard McNally

### Science and Pseudoscience in Clinical Psychology

S. O. Lilienfeld, S.J. Lynn, J.M. Lohr (eds.)

### Psychology Astray:

### Fallacies in Studies of "Repressed Memory" and Childhood Trauma

by Harrison G. Pope, Jr., M.D.

## ABDUCTED

### How People Come to Believe They Were Kidnapped by Aliens

Susan A. Clancy

Harvard University Press, 2005

A very readable book recommended to all *FMSF Newsletter* readers. Chapter 3, "Why do I have memories if it didn't happen?" will be of particular interest.

In an article in the British press about her research, Clancy wrote:

"We've all been seeing aliens for more than 50 years.... Preparing this article, I showed 25 people a picture of an alien and Tony Blair: all recognized an alien, fewer than half recognized Tony Blair."

"The trick to creating false memories is to get confused between things you imagined, or read, or saw, and things that actually happened."

"For almost all abductees, the seed of their belief is a question.... 'Why did I wake up in the middle of the night terrified and unable to move?' 'Why are these odd moles on my back?' 'Why do I feel so alone?' 'Why am I different from everyone else?' 'Why are my relationships so bad?' Questions generally lead to a search for answers...and our search is limited to the set of explanations we have actually heard of."

"For better or worse, being abducted by aliens has become a culturally available explanation for distress—whether that distress comes from work, relationships or insecurity."

"Many of us have strong emotional needs that have little to do with science—the need to feel less alone in the world, the desire to be special, the longing to know that there is something out there, something bigger and more important than you watching over you."

October 22, 2005, *The Express*, p. 45.

**CONTACTS & MEETINGS -  
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**ALABAMA**

See Georgia

**ALASKA**

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415-435-9618 (pm)*San Francisco & South Bay*

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Carole 805-967-8058

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Eileen and Jerry 909-659-9636

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Chris &amp; Alan 949-733-2925

*Covine Area*

Floyd &amp; Libby 626-357-2750

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**COLORADO***Colorado Springs*

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**CONNECTICUT***S. New England*

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Paul 203-458-9173

**FLORIDA***Dade/Broward*

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*Central Florida - Please call for mtg. time*

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*Sarasota*

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Bob &amp; Janet 727-856-7091

**GEORGIA***Atlanta*

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**ILLINOIS***Chicago & Suburbs - 1st Sun. (MO)*

Eileen 847-985-7693 or

Liz &amp; Roger 847-827-1056

*Peoria*

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**INDIANA***Indiana Assn. for Responsible Mental Health Practices*

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Helen 574-753-2779

**KANSAS***Wichita - Meeting as called*

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**KENTUCKY***Louisville- Last Sun. (MO) @ 2pm*

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*Portland - 4th Sun. (MO)*

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**MASSACHUSETTS/NEW ENGLAND***Andover - 2nd Sun. (MO) @ 1pm*

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*Ann Arbor*

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**MISSOURI***Kansas City - Meeting as called*

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*St. Louis Area - call for meeting time*

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*Springfield - Quarterly (4th Sat. of Apr., Jul., Oct., Jan.) @ 12:30pm*

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Nancy 973-729-1433 (Northern)

**NEW MEXICO***Albuquerque - 2nd Sat. (BI-MO) @ 1 pm*

Southwest Room Presbyterian Hospital

Maggie 505-662-7521(after 6:30pm) or Sy  
505-758-0726**NEW YORK***Westchester, Rockland, etc.*

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The British False Memory Society

Madeline 44-1225 868-682

**Deadline for the JULY/AUGUST Newsletter is June 15. Meeting notices MUST be in writing and should be sent no later than two months before meeting.**

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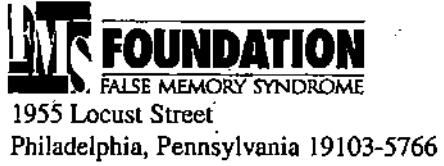
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